1107 Illinois Building
Springfield, Illinois
October 25, 1940

A

Mr. Howard L. Doyle
United States Attorney
Springfield, Illinois

Attention: Mr. Marks Alexander
Assistant U. S. Attorney

Re: FRANK ZITO
APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO
RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 21, 1940 requesting immediate investigation of the application filed by the above named subject.

Please be advised that this matter has been placed in line for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours

J. E. THORNTON
Special Agent in Charge

JET:HW
73-87

cc - Bureau

INDEXED

73-7139-1

FEDERAL BUREAU [illegible]
OCT [illegible]
[illegible]

FD-9

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Springfield, Illinois,
January 31, 1941

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Re: FRANK ZITO.
APPLICATION FOR PARDON TO
RESTORE CIVIL RIGHTS.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

2-3-JR

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate date Fingerprints forwarded Federal Bureau of Investigation.	Fingerprint Classification.
FRANK ZITO	Received U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas about March 4, 1933 for conspiracy, National Prohibition Act., sentenced to 2 years.		

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73-7137-2
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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ FEB 6 1941 ★
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

J. E. Thornton

J. E. THORNTON,
Special Agent in Charge

JW:[illegible]
73-87

May 15, 1941

RES:DC
RECORDED 73-7139-3

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DANIEL M. LYONS
THE PARDON ATTORNEY

Re: FRANK ZITO - APPLICATION
FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

There is attached a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 25, 1941, at Springfield, Illinois, entitled FRANK ZITO - RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS.

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This report indicates the applicant has petitioned for executive clemency in connection with the remission of a fine, although the investigation requested is that ordinarily conducted with regard to a petition for the restoration of civil rights.

It will be appreciated if you will advise me the nature of the investigation which you desire made in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. [illegible]
Mr. [illegible]
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ MAY 15 1941 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Springfield, Illinois 34

FILE NO. 73-87

REPORT MADE AT Springfield, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 4/25/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/31/41, 2/1/41 3/22/41	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] JW:EZ
TITLE FRANK ZITO			CHARACTER OF CASE RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Applicant was convicted on March 7, 1931 in Federal Court, Springfield, Illinois, for violation National Prohibition Act, sentenced to two years and fined $10,000.00. Served sentence, released on September 6, 1934 and is now applying for remission of fine and restoration of civil rights. Applicant, upon interview, claims to have been law abiding since his release. Has no property in own name, but has various properties throughout Illinois under his wife's name, totaling thousands of dollars. Applicant submitted names of various character references and those interviewed to date praise his character and reputation. However, previous inquiry by Springfield Office in other cases indicates that applicant has been accused of being a leading racketeer in this community and involved in numerous criminal activities. [redacted] Bureau advises he has no criminal record other than instant offense. Further investigation being conducted.

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Referral/Consult [redacted]

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Details: This case is based upon a letter dated October 22, 1940 from Mr. HOWARD L. DOYLE, United States Attorney, Springfield, Illinois, requesting that investigation be conducted in the matter of an application filed by FRANK ZITO for restoration of civil rights.

At the office of the United States Attorney, Springfield, Illinois, agent examined FRANK ZITO'S application for executive

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [redacted] AGENT IN CHARGE
Acting

[redacted] COPIES OF THIS REPORT

3 Bureau
1 USA, Springfield
3 Springfield

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U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—2084

clemency at which time it was noted that according to this application, ZITO was convicted upon a plea of not guilty in the United States District Court, Springfield, Illinois, of the crime of conspiracy to violate the National Prohibition Act and was sentenced on April 4, 1931 to two years' imprisonment in a Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas and was also sentenced to pay a fine of $10,000.00 and $50.00 costs. The application further indicates that this case was taken up on appeal to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit where the judgment was affirmed on April 21, 1933. ZITO began service of his sentence in the Leavenworth Penitentiary on March 1, 1933. He was eligible for parole October 31, 1933, but his application was denied and his term, with allowances for good conduct, expired September 6, 1934. It was noted in ZITO'S application that what he is after primarily is a remission of the fine.

Mr. MARKS ALEXANDER, Assistant United States Attorney, Springfield, Illinois, was interviewed concerning this matter and he stated that he desired that a thorough investigation be conducted regarding ZITO'S activities since his release from the Federal Penitentiary in 1934. Mr. ALEXANDER stated that although this is a remission of fine case, it should be handled exactly as any other restoration of civil rights matter inasmuch as ZITO'S fine would certainly not be remitted unless he has been a law abiding citizen since his release.

The Application for Executive Clemency mentioned above was further examined by agent and it was noted that this Application contains numerous letters of commendation from various Springfield citizens, many of whom are personally known to agent. The names of the persons signing such letters of commendation are, as follows:

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[redacted]

Hon. JOHN W. KAPP, Mayor of Springfield.

[redacted]

The statements submitted by the above individuals with reference to ZITO'S character and activities are not being set out in this report, inasmuch as they are available to the United States Attorney in his own files, but for the information of the Bureau, all of these statements are highly commendatory of ZITO and indicate that he is a respected citizen of Springfield and that he has conducted himself in a law abiding manner since his release from the Penitentiary. All of the individuals mentioned above recommend that the Government take favorable action on ZITO'S Application.

Agent personally examined the Docket of the United States Court, Springfield, Illinois, which Docket indicated that FRANK ZITO was indicted on January 23, 1930. He was convicted on March 7, 1931 after a "Not Guilty" plea and was sentenced on April 4, 1931 to two years in the United States Penitentiary, plus $10,000.00 fine. This sentence was later affirmed on April 21, 1933 by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

FRANK ZITO was interviewed at the Springfield Field Office, at which time the following information was obtained from him:

He was born on February 24, 1893 at San Jose, Italy and came to the United States with his parents in September, 1910, arriving at New York Harbor. He first went to Selma, Alabama, where he lived for about two years, working in the coal mines there, having been induced to do so by his brother, SAM ZITO, who had previously obtained employment there. In 1912, ZITO went to Benld, Illinois, where he worked as a coal miner for about six years. However the coal mining business was bad and he later became a peddler of olive oil and similar household necessities and started a local peddling business in Springfield, Illinois during 1919, in which city he has lived ever since. ZITO stated that he then opened a soft drink parlor at Tenth and Carpenter Street, Springfield, which he operated until about 1924. In 1924, he married his present wife, whose maiden name was LENA SGRO, and whose parents were rather wealthy Italians who subsequently set ZITO up in business for himself in the wholesale food business at Third and Carpenter Streets.

ZITO claimed that he operated this wholesale food business until the date that he was convicted on the conspiracy charge involving a violation of the National Prohibition Act. He advised that he did not consider his violation particularly serious inasmuch as practically everybody in Springfield was bootlegging at the time and that this was the only time he has ever been convicted of any offense. ZITO did not hesitate to admit his guilt in the matter.

ZITO advised that while at Leavenworth, he maintained a clear record and received all of his good time, and that after his release, he returned immediately to Springfield, Illinois, where he has lived ever since and where, he stated, he has maintained a good reputation.

In view of ZITO'S request for a remission of fine, he was questioned closely concerning his present income. ZITO was apparently extremely reluctant to divulge any definite information, but after a great deal of questioning, finally admitted that he had the following interests, technical title to which interests is in his wife's name:

1. Ownership of a home at 1301 Converse Street, Springfield, Illinois. Clear of all encumbrances. Assessed value approximately $6,000.00.

2. Ownership of a home at 1729 West Ash Street, Springfield, approximate valuation $30,000.00.

3. Lot at 12th and Washington Street, Springfield, approximate valuation $500.00.

4. Interest in Centralia, Illinois oil fields operated by Otis Oil Co., an Illinois Corporation, approximate valuation $6,000.00. This corporation is a dummy and all the shares are held by ZITO'S wife.

5. Ownership of Yellow Cab Co. and Checker Cab Co., Springfield, Illinois, both of which are Illinois Corporations, approximate valuation at least $20,000.00.

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It should be noted that none of the above property is in ZITO'S name but that it is all held in either the name of his wife [redacted] However, ZITO although he did not admit so outright, implied very clearly that he is the real owner of all of the above property. He further indicated that although he has no personal savings or checking accounts, his wife does and such accounts are in the First National Bank, Springfield and the Springfield Marine Bank, the amounts of which accounts he claims not to know.

ZITO was questioned as to whether he has ever filed an income tax return and stated that he has never done so, as he himself has no income. He advised that his wife, however, filed a return in 1940 and that she paid possibly $200.00 or $300.00. ZITO claims that his wife's approximate income for the year of 1940 would run about $3500.00 to $4000.00 from all of the investments listed above.

ZITO stated that he has never been naturalized as an American citizen but that his wife is American born. He stated that when he first came to this country, he intended to save his money and go back to Italy but that it is now his ambition to become an American citizen. ZITO stated, however, that he still sends money occasionally to his relatives in Italy, doing so through the Local Italian Consular Agent, but that he is not at all in sympathy with the policies of the present Italian Government. ZITO'S parents are both dead but he still has three brothers and three sisters in Italy, all of whom live in San Guissepe in that country. ZITO also has three brothers in the United States of whom two, SAM and TONY ZITO, live in Springfield and JOE

ZITO lives in Rockford, Illinois. ZITO has no children of his own.

ZITO was questioned closely concerning any past criminal record that he might have and denied same. However, after some questioning, he admitted that in 1915 he was ar [redacted]

In view of numerous rumors which had come to Agent's attention in the past concerning ZITO'S activities in Springfield, he was questioned directly as to whether he had any connection with any rackets in this community. ZITO, however, denied this specifically, and stated that his legitimate interests, under the cover of his wife's name, were quite sufficient to provide him with a livable income. ZITO advised that his main reason for filing this application was so that his record could be cleared in order that he might obtain his naturalization.

ZITO advised that he registered as an alien at the Springfield Post Office in December, 1940. He advised that he was fingerprinted both at the United States Marshal's Office, Springfield, and at Leavenworth Penitentiary subsequent to his conviction. The Bureau was subsequently requested by letter to furnish ZITO'S criminal record and the Bureau advised by letter dated February 6, 1941 that FRANK ZITO was received at the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, as No. 43067 on March 1, 1933 on a charge of prohibition violation, the sentence being two years, expiring on September 6, 1934. According to the Bureau's files, ZITO has no additional criminal record.

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[redacted] a character affiant of applicant, was interviewed at which time he advised he has known ZITO for about 12 years. He stated that ZITO'S conduct since he has been released from the penitentiary has been exemplary and that he is highly respected by all local Italians. He stated that ZITO is a member of the local Italian-American Democratic organization, [redacted] [redacted] but that ZITO is not active politically. He advised that ZITO is very well off financially; that he owns his own home and other properties in Springfield, including large interests in local cab companies, and that he also has large oil interests in the Centralia oil fields. According to [redacted] ZITO has never been naturalized but is most anxious to become an American citizen. [redacted] stated that ZITO would make a fine citizen and that he would recommend him most highly for sympathetic consideration in this connection. In view of [redacted] position as [redacted] he was not asked directly whether ZITO had any foreign sympathies, but [redacted] did advise that ZITO'S interests are unquestionably primarily in the United States rather than with Italy.

[redacted] store at [redacted], were both interviewed concerning ZITO at which time [redacted] stated that he has known ZITO for about five years and [redacted] stated that he has known ZITO for about 20 years. However, both gentlemen have known him only as a customer of their store. They both stated that ZITO has always maintained excellent credit; that he has recommended many good accounts to them; that he is a very large customer of theirs, and that he is generally looked up to by local Italians as being the leader of the Italian community in Springfield. Both gentlemen stated that they had never known him to make any remarks which might indicate that he was un-American in sympathies and that they believe that he has never been in any trouble of a criminal nature since his release from the penitentiary. Neither [redacted] nor [redacted] however, knew anything about ZITO'S personal life, but stated that based on their associations with him, they believe him to be a gentleman and the type of man who would make a good citizen.

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Mr. JASPER S. GULLO, Attorney-at-Law, 104½ South Sixth Street, Springfield, who was formerly an Assistant States Attorney here, was questioned by Agent concerning ZITO during the course of other conversations. Mr. GULLO stated that he has known ZITO for about 15 years and that ZITO is looked up to by all Italians in the community. Mr. GULLO stated that ZITO is openly Anti-Fascist and that his sympathies are entirely with the United States. Mr. GULLO stated that ZITO is independently wealthy, owning a great deal of property, including cab companies in Springfield, and that ZITO'S wealth came from presumably legitimate sources. Mr. GULLO stated, however, that it has been rumored that ZITO was mixed up in a slot machine racket some years ago but that this has never been substantiated. He advised that ZITO was never involved in any trouble in Springfield while GULLO was Assistant States Attorney here, from 1938 to 1940. According to Mr. GULLO, ZITO has no bad personal habits, and always acts as a gentleman.

[redacted]

Referral/Consult

field and also branches out into a wide section of central Illinois. His rackets, according to Mr. FIGUEIRA, were extremely lucrative and included liquor running, slot machines, control of houses of prostitution, shake-down of night clubs, and legitimate small businesses under guise of protection and numerous other similar rackets. According to Mr. FIGUEIRA, ZITO'S subordinates in Springfield included numerous well known criminal racketeers, including PATSY AIELLO, NICK CAMPO, [redacted] and the well known DINORA boys. Mr. FIGUEIRA also at that time made certain allegations concerning ZITO'S corruption of public officials which is not being set out in this report at this time.

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A description of applicant as obtained from personal observation and questioning is, as follows:

AGE:	48 (Born 2/24/93, San Jose, Italy)
HEIGHT:	5 ft. 6 in.
WEIGHT:	172 Lbs.
BUILD:	Heavy
HAIR:	Grayish-Black, slightly bald
EYES:	Brown
MARITAL STATUS:	Married, no children
SCARS & MARKS:	Blue-black coal mark across nose.
CRIMINAL RECORD:	No record other than instant offense.
CITIZENSHIP:	Italian citizen

Due to emergency matters, Agent was forced to discontinue this investigation at this time and this report is being submitted in order to keep the matter in a current, up-to-date status.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION

At Springfield, Illinois, will interview all of the character affiants of applicant as listed in the body of this report and will question them closely as to ZITO'S character, reputation, and possible connection with any racketeering activities in this community. Will make appropriate inquiry at the Springfield Police Department to obtain any known facts concerning ZITO'S activities in this community. It is suggested that in this connection, Chief of Police FRANK J. HEALY be interviewed personally concerning this matter rather than some subordinate officer. It is further suggested that Sergeant [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] may be able to furnish information concerning this. Will interview Mr. ROBERT L. THORPE, Agent in Charge, Alcohol Tax Unit, Ridgely-Farmers Bank Building, for any information he may be able to furnish concerning ZITO'S alleged racketeering activities. Will interview Mr. FRANK FIGUEIRA, who is no longer connected with the State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, but who resides at 1425 South Seventh Street, Springfield. Will also interview Mr. T. P. SULLIVAN, Superintendent of the Illinois State Highway Maintenance Police, who was Mr. FIGUEIRA'S immediate superior in 1937 and who is known by Agent to be very well acquainted with ZITO'S activities. Will conduct a thorough neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of ZITO'S home at 1301 Converse Avenue, Springfield, to obtain complete information relative to ZITO'S character, reputation, and conduct. Will interview [redacted] [redacted] Sangamon County, who should also be able to furnish information concerning ZITO.

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At Peoria, Illinois, will interview [redacted] and obtain from him any information pertinent to this matter.

Referral/Consult

- PENDING -

June 5, 1941

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Special Agent in Charge
Springfield, Illinois

Re: FRANK ZITO; APPLICATION
FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted], dated April 25, 1941, at Springfield, Illinois.

Your attention is directed to the fact that this application is one for executive clemency rather than one for the restoration of civil rights. However, inquiry has been made of the Pardon Attorney and he has requested that although this is an application for executive clemency, the investigation should follow the course usually taken for investigations for the restoration of civil rights.

You should, therefore, conduct the usual investigation performed in an application for the restoration of civil rights case, although the correct character is application for executive clemency.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN 5 1941
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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DANIEL M. LYONS
PARDON ATTORNEY

64-677-Zito

Department of Justice
Washington DGB:eca

May 20, 1941

RHJ [redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

to [redacted]

Re: Frank Zito - application for
Executive clemency.

Receipt is acknowledged of your memorandum of May 15, 1941, transmitting the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 25, 1941, at Springfield, Illinois, entitled "Frank Zito - Restoration of Civil Rights." You request to be advised as to the nature of the investigation to be made with respect to this particular case.

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Please be advised that the applicant primarily applied for a remission of fine. However, in view of the length of time that has elapsed since his conviction, the application was treated as one for pardon to restore civil rights and United States Attorney Doyle was requested to have the customary investigations made with respect thereto. Such a pardon, if granted, remits any unpaid fine.

In view of the foregoing, would you be kind enough to have the customary investigation made as in other applications for pardon to restore civil rights with particular emphasis being placed upon the present financial status of the applicant.

Daniel M Lyons
DANIEL M. LYONS,
Pardon Attorney.

73-7139-
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 MAY 22 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Springfield, Illinois SV FILE NO. 73-87

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
Springfield, Illinois	7/17/41	5/19,23,26/41	[redacted] JW:IM

TITLE	CHARACTER OF CASE
FRANK ZITO	APPLICATION FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Applicant, who now resides at 1729 West Ash Street, Springfield, Illinois, is described by references generally as law-abiding and worthy of consideration for executive clemency. However, it appears probable that many of these references were influenced by business and political affiliations to lend these indorsements. T. P. SULLIVAN, State Director of Public Safety, Springfield, Illinois, who knows applicant well, states applicant is the head of the Zito mob in Springfield - formerly affiliated with the Al Capone Gang; that he is the local head of various rackets; and that he is entirely unworthy of any consideration in connection with this application. This opinion is concurred in by numerous Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials in Springfield who describe applicant as a racketeer. [redacted] Information previously received by Springfield Office concerning applicant, summarized herein, indicates that he is actively engaged in criminal racketeering. Further inquiry being conducted.

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Referral/Consult

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REFERENCES: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, dated 4/25/41.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: AHConroy SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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3 - Bureau
2 - USA, Springfield
3 - Springfield.

cc Pardon Atty 8-6-41

JUL 21 1941

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RKJ

DETAILS: At Springfield, Illinois:

COMMUNITY REPUTATION

Mr. T. P. SULLIVAN, State Director of Public Safety, Springfield, Illinois, who is personally known to agent as being very reliable law enforcement official, was interviewed concerning his knowledge of FRANK ZITO. Mr. SULLIVAN stated that he has known ZITO to be the head of all racketeering activities in Springfield for at least the past ten years. He described ZITO as "The King Pin" of all Italian racketeers here and stated that the so-called ZITO Mob was affiliated with the AL CAPONE outfit in Chicago up to very recently. Mr. SULLIVAN advised that ZITO shares his leadership in Springfield racketeering with NICK CAMPO and that ZITO and CAMPO have local hoodlums working for them - ZITO being a background man.

According to Mr. SULLIVAN, ZITO is absolutely capable of any crime, although his arrest record in itself, is not great, as he has brains enough not to be directly involved himself.

The ZITO mob, according to Mr. SULLIVAN, was involved not only in bootlegging, prior to the repeal of the Prohibition Amendment, but was also suspected of having participated in numerous local kidnapings and other terroristic crimes. Mr. SULLIVAN stated that ZITO is a very poor sample of citizenship material; that ZITO has always lived by his wits, and has accumulated large sums of money and a great deal of property, all of which is in his wife's name, and if ZITO owes the Government any money he should certainly be forced to pay same.

Mr. SULLIVAN also furnished agent with names of many of ZITO'S known associates, and these will be set out later in this report.

Mr. FRANK FIGUERIA, 1425 South 7th Street, who was formerly connected with the State Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation, working under Mr. SULLIVAN, has also investigated the ZITO outfit in the past. Mr. FIGUERIA corroborated every statement made by Mr. SULLIVAN and also gave as his opinion that FRANK ZITO is the most dangerous criminal in Central Illinois, although the police have never been able to make any case against him. Mr. FIGUERIA advised that FRANK ZITO is an exceptionally intelligent individual who never engages in violent action himself, but who is the brains of the ZITO Gang which rules all racketeering activities in Springfield and Central Illinois.

Mr. ROBERT THORPE, Agent in Charge, Alcohol Tax Unit, U. S. Treasury Department, Ridgely Building, Springfield, Illinois, advised he is well acquainted with FRANK ZITO and has definite opinions concerning him. He stated that ZITO has been convicted only once - this being on a bootlegging charge, approximately ten years ago, and that since his release from the penitentiary ZITO has watched himself very carefully. Mr. THORPE does not believe that ZITO is involved in the alcohol racket at the present time, but stated that he is undoubtedly the head of, or involved in practically every other racket which may be flourishing here. Mr. THORPE stated that ZITO is well liked by the Italian hoodlums in Springfield, and that if any dissension arises among this element FRANK ZITO is the ultimate arbitrator; and that FRANK ZITO always gets his cut out of any racket. According to Mr. THORPE, ZITO owns a great deal of property in Springfield and in Central Illinois, although this property is undoubtedly not in his own name. He stated that ZITO has some good qualities; is rather likeable, and is looked up to by many local Italians - but that in his opinion ZITO never was a good citizen and never will be one.

Mr. THORPE recommends most emphatically against giving him any consideration for executive clemency or remission of fine. Mr. THORPE stated that undoubtedly many references given by ZITO in connection with his application, gave their indorsements for political or business reasons, inasmuch as ZITO is quite active politically and can bring political influence to bear.

[redacted] State Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, advised that he knows FRANK ZITO only by reputation and that this reputation is entirely bad. He stated that ZITO has a widely known reputation in this community as being a bootlegger and a racketeer who can be suspected of being involved in any type of crime. [redacted] stated that ZITO has a great deal of political influence in town and that it may be difficult to get any persons to express their true opinion of him due to political or business reasons, but there is no question in his mind that ZITO merited no consideration whatsoever at the hands of the Government.

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[redacted] and [redacted] Deputy U. S. Marshals, Springfield, both advised that they have known ZITO by reputation for many years, and that there is no doubt in their minds but that he is involved in every type of racketeering in the community. They stated that due to political reasons it may be difficult to induce any good citizens in town to give their real opinions as to ZITO, but that ZITO'S connection with racketeering activities is well known. They further stated that TONY ZITO, who is a brother of FRANK ZITO, was recently sentenced in Federal Court at Springfield for violation of the Internal Revenue Act, to eight years in a Federal Penitentiary, and was fined $12,000.00.

This sentence was checked by agent at the office of the United States Marshal, and it was ascertained that TONY ZITO bears FBI #1320911, and that his criminal record, as reflected by a Bureau transcript which indicates that he has been arrested on numerous occasions on serious charges. The record further indicates that on March 25, 1941 TONY ZITO was arrested by the United States Marshal, Springfield, on violation of the Internal Revenue Act and upon his conviction was sentenced to eight years in a Federal Penitentiary and fined $12,000.00.

[redacted]

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Mr. LAUREN JACKSON, Agent in Charge, U. S. Secret Service, Springfield, Illinois, advised that he has known FRANK ZITO by reputation for the past several years as a local racketeer, but that ZITO has apparently not been involved in any counterfeiting activities. Mr. JACKSON advised that during the past few years several associates of ZITO, namely the DINORAS and CAMPOS, have been convicted on counterfeiting charges and have been sent to Federal Penitentiaries, but that FRANK ZITO himself has never been involved in these cases.

[redacted]

Referral/Consult

Referral/Consult

[redacted]

[redacted] Springfield, Illinois, advised that he knows FRANK ZITO only by reputation as being one of the leading racketeers in Springfield. [redacted] was unable to furnish any facts to back up his opinion, but stated that it is more or less a matter of common knowledge, and that ZITO has never been arrested in this community since his release from the penitentiary several years ago.

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[redacted] Springfield Police Department, stated that he has known FRANK ZITO well for the past ten years as a leader of all racketeering in Springfield. He stated that ZITO was at one time involved in bootlegging and that he is possibly even now involved in the illicit liquor business. [redacted] stated that ZITO is well-fixed financially, although all of his property is undoubtedly in his wife's name. He described ZITO as being a background man, who is "nobody's fool" and stated that ZITO has enough sense not to become personally involved in any of the rackets in which he derives a cut.

[redacted] stated that ZITO'S entire immediate family, which consists of three brothers, SAM and TONY ZITO of Springfield, and JOE ZITO of Rockford, Illinois, are all well-known racketeers and hoodlums, and have been arrested on occasions. [redacted] gave as his opinion that ZITO be made to pay any fine he owes the Government, and that he would be the poorest type of a citizen, should such citizenship status be granted him.

[redacted] and [redacted] of the Springfield Police Department, who were also interviewed in this connection, agreed entirely with [redacted] opinion as to FRANK ZITO and could not offer any more definite information concerning ZITO'S activities.

In view of the fact that page four of reference report indicates that ZITO has interests in a great deal of property, including the Yellow Cab Company and Checker Cab Company, both of Springfield, and the Otiz Oil Company in Centralia, Illinois, it was thought advisable to check these corporations as a possible guide for the United States Attorney in his recommendations in this matter.

[redacted] Corporation Department, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, furnished the following record concerning these three corporations:

The Otis Oil Company Inc., was incorporated on June 3, 1939 under Charter #22828, its duration being for 99 years. The original incorporators were NICK CAMPO, 1301 East Reynolds Street, [redacted]
The business address of the corporation is given as 1617 South 4th Street, Springfield, Illinois, [redacted] [redacted]

The corporation was given authority by its charter to issue 1250 shares of common stock, no par value, the consideration to be received by the corporation for such stock being $12,500. The purpose of the corporation is given as generally to engage in the oil and coal business, including production, storage and marketing. The estimated value of all property owned by the corporation in Illinois is given as $12,500.00, and the estimated gross business per year is given as $10,000.00.

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In the last annual report filed by the Otis Oil Company with the Secretary of State, Springfield, on July 1, 1940 the following officers and directors are indicated:

President - NICK CAMPO, 1301 East Reynolds Street,
Springfield, Ill.

[redacted]

It is interesting to note that the word "OTIZ" in the name Otiz Oil Company is apparently a backward transposition of the word "ZITO".

[redacted]

It should also be noted that NICK CAMPO, the President of the Otis Oil Company, is the same individual, who is alleged by Mr. T. P. SULLIVAN to be the joint-head with FRANK ZITO of the so-called ZITO mob.

With reference to the Springfield Checker Cab Company, in which ZITO admittedly has interest, the Corporation Department's records indicate that this company was incorporated on June 19, 1930 - its purpose being to engage in taxi cab and general delivery business. Its charter authorizes 200 shares of common stock at $50.00 par value per share, having a total valuation of $10,000. [redacted]

The original incorporators of this company are as follows:

[redacted]

In its last annual report filed February 24, 1941, the corporation's office was shown as 421 East Jefferson Street, and the following officers and directors are indicated:

[redacted]

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With reference to the Springfield Yellow Cab Company, the corporation records indicate that this was incorporated on October 3, 1936 for the purpose of doing a cab and delivery business. The charter authorized 150 shares of common stock, no par value - the corporation to receive a consideration for the above of $5000.00. The original incorporators were as follows:

[redacted]

LENA ZITO, 1301 E. Converse, Springfield, Ill.

[redacted]

In its last annual report filed February 24, 1941, the following officers and directors are indicated:

[redacted]

Secretary and Director - LENA ZITO, 1301 East Converse Street, Springfield, Ill.

[redacted]

It should be noted in connection with the above that LENA ZITO is the wife of FRANK ZITO [redacted]

REFERENCES

All of the individuals indicated below were given by FRANK ZITO as character references, in connection with his application for executive clemency, as listed on page two of reference report:

[redacted] and has received a favorable impression of him. [redacted] stated that ZITO was well liked by the Italian element in town, and that he appears to be a reliable individual. [redacted] has had no social or business dealings with ZITO, but has known him politically, as ZITO is a member of the Italian-American Group, which is quite active in political circles. [redacted] has no close acquaintanceship with ZITO, and has never heard of him being involved in rackets and stated that he sees no reason why he should not be considered favorably by the Government in connection with the present investigation.

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Mr. JOHN W. KAPP, Mayor of Springfield, Illinois, stated that he has known FRANK ZITO for several years and believes him to be a courteous and trustworthy individual. Mayor KAPP stated that he does not believe ZITO has been involved in any criminal activities since his release from the Federal Penitentiary some years ago, and further stated that ZITO'S reputation in the community is good. Mayor KAPP advised that he believes that ZITO should be considered favorably by the Government in connection with this investigation.

[redacted] stated that he believes that ZITO has behaved himself credibly and honestly since his release from the Federal penitentiary some years ago, and that he further believes that ZITO has set a good example, particularly for persons of Italian extraction, in this community, and further that he lives an exemplary home life. [redacted] stated further that he has never heard of ZITO being involved in any un-American activities or local rackets, and he believes the interest of justice would be served by favorably consideration of this applicant.

[redacted] stated that he has known ZITO for about ten years and regards him as an honest and reputable individual. [redacted] stated that ZITO is a member of the Italian-American Group, which is a political and social organization, and that ZITO has always been a high-type of individual who has never engaged in any criminal activities since his release from the Federal penitentiary. [redacted] stated that he sees ZITO almost every day and would vouch for his Americanism and general character and reputation.

It should be noted here for the information of the United States Attorney that previous investigations by this office have established very definitely that the Italian-American Club is a hang-out for Italian hoodlums in this city and that the reputation of this club is extremely undesirable.

[redacted] stated that he has known ZITO for about fourteen years. [redacted] advised that ZITO was previously a local bootlegger, and [redacted] ZITO never works and that he derives his entire income from taxicab and oil interests, which he holds in his wife's name.

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[redacted] stated that ZITO comes from Southern Italy [redacted]

[redacted] He advised that ZITO and his family have always been pleasant and sociable neighbors and that ZITO himself is always accommodating and good natured. [redacted] stated that a few weeks ago ZITO sold the house at 1301 Converse Street and moved to his other home at 1729 West Ash Street, Springfield, which is in the expensive Oak Knolls Section. [redacted] knows ZITO only as a neighbor and has never associated with him socially or in business and knows nothing about his activities since his release from the Federal penitentiary.

[redacted] and [redacted] who share offices at [redacted] both stated they have known ZITO for many years in their professional capacities and he is believed to be a reputable, law-abiding resident of this community. Neither [redacted] nor [redacted] have associated with

ZITO socially and stated they knew nothing about his activities since his release from the penitentiary, but they believe he has been law-abiding and that his application should be looked upon favorably by the Government.

[redacted]

[redacted] advised that he has known ZITO for at least five years. [redacted] [redacted] and has not associated with ZITO socially. [redacted] indicated his belief that ZITO is a reliable, law-abiding citizen and recommended that his application be accepted favorably.

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[redacted]

Mr. HARRY L. McNULTY, 412 East Myrtle Street, stated that he has known ZITO for approximately twenty years. Mr. McNULTY operates McNULTY'S CAFE at 401 East Jefferson Street, Springfield, and he advised that ZITO stops in here a few times a week for cigars and other things. Mr. McNULTY stated that so far as he knows ZITO has not been involved in any difficulties or rackets since bootlegging days, and he believes that ZITO'S application should be considered favorably.

It should be noted that previous investigation by this office has indicated that McNULTY'S CAFE is a notorious hang-out for hoodlums and petty criminals in Springfield, and that McNULTY himself may possibly be involved in activities of this nature.

[redacted] in which he is now living in Oak Knolls. [redacted] stated that after Mrs. ZITO purchased this home they rented it to F. L. SMITH, former State Director of Public Works & Buildings, who later became involved in a State scandal and committed suicide. [redacted] stated that the ZITOS are now residing in this home.

He advised that ZITO has always conducted all business transactions in his wife's name, but he, ZITO, is known as a reliable party with whom to make a business deal.

[redacted] stated that he has not associated with ZITO socially and has no reason to believe that he may be involved in any criminal or racketeering activities and believes that his application should be considered favorably by the Government.

[redacted] He stated that he has known ZITO for about twenty years, believes him to be law abiding and a respectable individual, and that his present application should be considered favorably by the Government.

[redacted]

[redacted] stated that he has known ZITO in a business way for many years, and does not believe that he has been involved in any trouble since bootlegging days. [redacted] stated that he has visited ZITO'S home at 1301 East Converse Street on occasions, and has met ZITO'S wife, and [redacted] and has always found him to be a most likeable individual. [redacted] stated that he does not know of any instances where ZITO may have been involved in difficulties, and that he believes his present application should be considered favorably by the Government.

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[redacted] stated that ZITO is an intelligent individual, who is rather likeable, and that he has never known ZITO to be involved in any difficulties or criminal activities since his release from the penitentiary. [redacted] stated that ZITO is the type of individual who has always lived by his wits; that he owns oil interests around Centralia, Illinois, and also has interests in local taxicab companies; that ZITO has never been involved in any un-American activities; and that he believes that ZITO'S application should be considered favorably by the Government.

INFORMATION CONCERNING FRANK ZITO, AS REFLECTED IN PREVIOUS SPRINGFIELD INVESTIGATIONS:

For the information of the United States Attorney, the so-called ZITO MOB in Springfield has previously come to the attention of the Springfield Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and an attempt has been made herein to summarize such information as particularly regards FRANK ZITO.

The report of Special Agent [redacted] Peoria, Illinois, dated 12-8-37 in the case entitled [redacted] with aliases; JAMES ATWOOD GRAY, with aliases (Deceased); [redacted] - Victim, indicates that the following information was furnished to Special Agent [redacted] on 11-22-37 by Mr. FRANK FIGUERIA of the State Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation:

Mr. FIGUERIA stated that FRANK ZITO, 1301 Converse Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, is the head of the ZITO MOB; that he controls, with the aid of his helpers, practically every racket in Springfield, and also branches out into a wide section of Central Illinois; that his rackets include liquor running, slot machines, control of houses of prostitution, shakedown of night clubs and legitimate small businesses under guise of protection and numerous other similar rackets.

Mr. FIGUERIA indicated at that time that ZITOS confederates and subordinates in this mob are the following:

PATSY AIELLO, Peoria P. D. #6404, who may be located at the Italian-American Club, Springfield, the alleged headquarters of the ZITO MOB - AIELLO being one of the most desperate criminals in the ZITO organization, and presently wanted in Italy on a robbery charge.

Other associates are NICK CAMPO, 1301 East Reynolds, Springfield, Illinois; [redacted] BUSTER [redacted] DINORA, Springfield; [redacted] VITO IMPASTATO, Springfield, FBI #100248.

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According to Mr. FIGUERIA all of the above individuals are well-known criminals in and around Springfield and work directly under FRANK ZITO'S supervision.

Report of Special Agent [redacted], Chicago, dated January 6, 1938, in the same case, contains a great deal of information concerning the ZITO outfit. It appears from this report that JOE ZITO, who is a brother of FRANK ZITO, is commonly known as "Diamond Joe", and is the head of racketeering activities in Rockford, Illinois and has connections with the FRANK ZITO outfit in Springfield. Page 18 of the report of Special Agent [redacted] contains information furnished by [redacted] stated at that time, with reference to "Diamond Joe" ZITO, that this individual "has two brothers in Springfield, Illinois who are firmly entrenched in the bootlegging and labor rackets there."

This report also contains information furnished by an informant of the Streator, Illinois Police Department, which contains the following pertinent material - "That [redacted] is now supposed to be working in Springfield, Illinois for one of JOE ZITO'S brothers, who is reputedly the head of all vice rackets in that city."

Pages 31-34 of Special Agent [redacted] report contain further information concerning the ZITO outfit, as furnished by [redacted] [redacted] Alcohol Tax Unit, Rockford, Illinois. Previously summarized, this information indicates that "Diamond Joe" ZITO of Rockford, is the head of an organized liquor ring in that vicinity, which is closely linked to the CAMPO-ZITO Gang operating in Springfield, which "has absolute control over all rackets, including bootlegging in Springfield and vicinity and has a large number of transporters under its exclusive control".

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The report on page 32 further states that "FRANK ZITO, 1301 Converse Avenue, Springfield, Illinois, Telephone Capitol 4693. He is the immediate head of the gang in all rackets." And carries the names of numerous associates of ZITO in Springfield, including various CAMPOS, ZITOS, and DINORAS, and PATSY AIELLO, previously referred to.

Investigation in this matter was discontinued at this time, temporarily, by agent due to being called away on emergency National Defense matters, and this investigation will, therefore, be completed as soon as possible.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SPRINGFIELD FIELD DIVISION:

At Springfield, Illinois, will interview [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted] who are the only references of applicant not as yet interviewed.

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Will also interview [redacted] Sangamon County, for any information he may be able to furnish concerning ZITO.

Will conduct neighborhood investigation at 1301 East Converse Street, and at 1729 West Ash Street.

Will check ZITO'S credit record at Springfield.

Will conduct such further investigation as may be warranted concerning ZITO'S activities and conduct since his release from the penitentiary.

- PENDING -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Springfield, Illinois

FILE NO. 73-37

REPORT MADE AT Springfield, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 10-28-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8-26,27;10-10,11-41	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] EHW:MS
TITLE FRANK ZITO			CHARACTER OF CASE APPLICATION FOR EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: References [redacted] and [redacted] favorable. [redacted] [redacted] revealed no knowledge of any present illegal activity. Investigation revealed applicant contemplated purchase of coal mine although claiming inability to pay fine. No definite information concerning any illegal activities of applicant at present.

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REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [redacted] Springfield, Illinois dated 7-17-41.

DETAILS: At Springfield, Illinois:

REFERENCES

[redacted] [redacted] states that he has known the applicant for a period of about fifteen years and that he seems to have developed into a better citizen since his confinement for violation of the Liquor Laws several years ago. [redacted] added that the applicant appears to be trying to be a good citizen and is conducting himself in a respectable manner, stating that he derives his income from operation of the Checker and Yellow Cab Companies in Springfield, Illinois and from an interest in an oil business.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

73-1121-6

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[redacted] added that he was sure in his own mind that the applicant is a good citizen today and, as proof of this, offered the information that the applicant had recently contemplated the purchase of a coal mine near Springfield, Illinois, to show that he was interested in legitimate activities. When questioned concerning the contemplated purchase of a coal mine [redacted] revealed that the mine in question was [redacted] and that he understood the purchase price was to be about $30,000. [redacted] further stated that the applicant came to him for advice concerning the purchase of the mine knowing that [redacted] [redacted] further stated that he reminded the applicant of his lack of knowledge of coal mining operations and warned him that the present was a poor time to enter the coal business and advised him strongly against it. [redacted] stated also that the attorney for the applicant, Mr. A. M. FITZGERALD, of Springfield, Illinois, also advised the applicant against the contemplated purchase and thanked [redacted] for giving him the benefit of his advice.

Dr. EMIL BERNARD of the Broadwell Building, Springfield, advised that he had taken medical care of the applicant for about sixteen or seventeen years and feels that he knows him very well. Dr. BERNARD added that he believed the applicant has an interest in the Checker and Yellow Cab Companies as he has witnessed him giving instructions to employees of those companies at the company offices. Dr. BERNARD further stated that he feels that the activities of the applicant today are all of a legitimate nature and he would be willing to take oath to this fact. He further stated that the applicant owns one of the finest homes in the city and that he is proud to associate with him.

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CRIMINAL RECORD

[redacted] of the Sangamon Company advised that he has no criminal record in his files pertaining to the applicant, and that if the applicant is presently engaged in illegal activities he has no knowledge of it, stating that "it couldn't be Slot Machines as we don't have any in the County now. As far as I am concerned, he can have his citizenship". [redacted] and that he may desire not to offend the applicant, who is considered to be a sizable political figure among the Italian population of Springfield.

At Athens, Illinois:

[redacted] the Howard Mine at Sherman, Illinois, was interviewed at his home and revealed that the applicant, several months ago, was contemplating the purchase [redacted] the purchase price to be $31,000. [redacted] advised that in mining circles a coal mine is considered a delicate thing as improper operation could quickly ruin the results of many years of labor.

[redacted] the sale be a cash transaction and that in this case the contemplated purchase price was $31,000. [redacted] advised that the applicant appeared anxious for sometime to close the deal [redacted] $15,000 in cash to bind the purchase. [redacted] understood that the applicant had been previously involved in trouble [redacted] He further stated that the contemplated purchase never went through and that he was never advised as to the reason for dropping the proposed transaction.

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It is to be noted that while the applicant claims inability to pay $10,000 fine levied against him by the Government, he appears to be able to furnish at least $15,000 in cash for the transaction of the above referred to mine.

Investigation in the Neighborhood of 1729 West Ash St., Springfield, Ill.

[redacted] advised that he understands that the applicant was in trouble several years ago as a result of bootlegging, but that he knows nothing of his present activities. [redacted] added that the applicant appears to live quietly and that he would not know him if he saw him.

[redacted] stated that the subject has a reputation in the neighborhood of being a bootlegger and a generally undesirable neighbor although she has no personal knowledge of any actual wrongdoing. [redacted] further advised that she does not have any information regarding the present activities or business dealings of the subject.

[redacted] advised that she does not know anything about the applicant other than that he has the reputation of being a former bootlegger and added that she has no knowledge concerning the present activities of the applicant.

[redacted] stated that she knows nothing of the applicant other than that he is engaged in the cab business and added that the family seems to be a quiet one and that they do not associate with the neighbors.

[redacted] advised that she only knows that the applicant moved there in March of 1941 and knows nothing of the background or present activities of the applicant, stating that she does not know him by sight and knows nothing derogatory concerning him.

[redacted] stated that he knows nothing of applicant other than the fact that he has the reputation of being a former bootlegger. [redacted] added that the applicant's family does not associate with others in the neighborhood and seems to live quietly, adding that they entertain but very little. He further stated that he has no knowledge concerning the business associates or connections of the applicant.

Investigation in the Neighborhood of 1301 East Converse St., Springfield

[redacted] advised that the applicant and his family were always peaceable neighbors who never mingled to any extent with the other people in the neighborhood and consequently she never became well acquainted with them. She added that the applicant had the reputation in the neighborhood of being an ex-bootlegger.

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[redacted] stated that the applicant and his family "never neighbored" and kept very much to themselves. [redacted] further stated that the applicant formerly entertained groups of men at his home a great deal before his conviction, but that upon his release from prison such activity was not noted at his home. [redacted] stated that she had no knowledge of any illegal activities on the part of the applicant since his release from prison and stated that she believed him to be a loyal American.

[redacted] advised that she visited with the wife the applicant once in a while and that they maintained a clean respectable home although the applicant had the reputation of being exbootlegger. [redacted] further stated that the applicant was a pleasant type of woman to have as a neighbor.

[redacted] said that he had lived there five years, but never became well acquainted with the applicant and that he has no knowledge concerning the present or former business dealings of the applicant and knows nothing derogatory concerning him.

[redacted] stated that the ZITOS were nice people who minded their own business and maintained a good home. She added that she had no knowledge of any business activities of the applicant and knew nothing that would reflect discredit upon him.

Credit Record

[redacted] at the Springfield Credit Bureau advised that they had no credit rating for the applicant and that the only information in their files was composed of newspaper clippings from the Springfield, Illinois papers in the years 1931, 1932, and 1933, concerning illegal activities of the subject at the time of his arrest and conviction for violation of the Federal Laws prohibiting dealing in alcohol.

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In view of the fact that there is no further investigation to be conducted in connection with this case within the territory of the Springfield Field Division, this case is being closed.

- CLOSED -